

Supervisor Lesko and Councilwoman Bonner Announce Town Purchase of Open Space at Lake Panamoka

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Farmingville, NY - Supervisor Mark Lesko and Councilwoman Jane Bonner have announced a joint purchase by the Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County of five parcels of upland and wetland open space in the northwestern corner of Lake Panamoka. The purchased properties, which are within the hamlet of Lake Panamoka, amount to a total of 3.1 acres at a cost of \$320,000 which was shared equally by the Town and County who paid \$160,000 each. The Town is also in contract for a sixth parcel adjacent to the newly purchased lots and expects to close in a few months. The County had previously purchased a 24 acre wooded parcel on the east shore of the lake.

"This is another example of the Town's strong commitment to preserving open space," said Supervisor Lesko. "By purchasing this land, we have made great strides in protecting the ecology of Lake Panamoka by eliminating any chance that the land would be over developed in the future. It is vital that we make every effort to preserve the environment for future generations."

"Lake Panamoka is an environmental haven for wildlife and this is an important step in preserving its natural, unspoiled beauty," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner who represents the 2nd District where Lake Panamoka is located. "We must continue to purchase properties around the Lake until we can assure that it will be completely protected."

This acquisition significantly advances the protection of a lobed freshwater wetland that is directly connected to Lake Panamoka. A lobed wetland is a circular wetland that exists in the north east corner of the Lake thereby making for an indentation in the shoreline of the lake. This provides a safe habitat for eastern tiger salamanders which are currently on the New York State Endangered species list

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